

Ser. No. 10/002,643
Response to Office Action of 30 June 2005
Atty Docket 117163.00031

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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 3-6, 8-10, 12-38, 42, 43, and 46-56 were pending at the time of the mailing of the Office Action of 30 June 2005. Claims 14-27 and 46-56 were withdrawn from consideration. In the outstanding Office Action, claims 1, 3-6, 8-10, 12-14, and 28-38 were rejected. Claims 42 and 43 were objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim but being allowable if rewritten in independent form with all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. By this Amendment, claim 1 has been amended, previously withdrawn claims 15-27 and 46-56, and elected claims 42 and 43, have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer as to the subject matter contained therein.

In light of the Examiner's statement regarding the allowability of claims 42 and 43, claim 1 has been amended to include all of the limitations of claim 42, which previously depended directly from claim 1. Therefore, it is maintained that claim 1, as amended, now patentably distinguishes over the prior art. Likewise, claims 3-6, 8-10, 12-13, and 28-38, which directly or indirectly depend from and include all the limitations of claim 1, also patentably distinguish over the cited prior art.

In response to a restriction requirement, the claims of Group I, Species A were previously elected. Because the limitations of claim 1 are not specific to any particular structures shown in Figs. 1 or 5, claim 1 should be considered an allowable generic claim for both Species of Group I. Therefore, rejoinder and allowance of the non-elected claim of Group I, Species B, claim 14, is respectfully requested.

The outstanding Office Action was mailed on 30 June 2005. No fees are believed to be due with this response. However, in the event that a fee for the filing of this response is insufficient, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee deficiency or to credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 15-0450.

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